



# The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

P.O. Box 1020  
Westmont, IL 60559-8220

RECEIVED

Fray Benjamin Salas Achahuanco, O. Carm.  
Director

2020 FEB -3 P 3: 15

POSTAL REGULATORY

January 28, 2020

Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York NW, Suite  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No: RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the almost 10,000 Americans who donate to our mission, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases – which are estimated to reach seven percent per year – will have a negative impact on The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel's ability to carry out its mission and will not reform the Postal Service.

The mission of The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is to support the education and formation of Carmelite Friars, compassion for the poor, and promotion of the Carmelite charism in the country of El Salvador. The member's donations support the Carmelite (a Catholic order of priests and brothers) ministries in spiritual education, schools, parishes, food pantries, shelters, and disaster relief in mission countries.

The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is not able to increase our budget to keep pace with postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next 5 years. Any expense, such as postage, that exceeds our means will result in necessary reductions in our use of mail. Such a reduction will lead to less revenue, limiting our outreach and reducing the amount our organization can spend on critical mission programs.

The USPS says that it partners with us mailers. Springing a wholesale and drastic change such as contemplated here does not demonstrate collaboration. It is not how partners treat each other. We, like other nonprofit mailers, have long relied on our partnership with the Postal Service. We urge you to justify our reliance by reconsidering this recent proposal to increase postage rates.

Sincerely,

Rev Benjamín Salas Achahuanco, O. Carm.

Phone (630) 719-2207 Toll-free: (800) 341-5950

*The mission of The Association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the education and formation of Carmelite Friars, compassion for the poor, and promotion of the Carmelite charism in the country of El Salvador. Inspired by Mary, we seek to live our lives as she would.*